

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim 19, further comprising intermediate parts forming ball joint cages fixed in each of the two plates of the suspended structure, ~~the~~ second spherical surfaces being formed between the ball joint cages and the second circular members.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the suspended structure is capable of rotating about at least one of the first axis and second axis.

8. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the load bearing structure is capable of rotating about at least one of the first axis and second axis.

9. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the first circular member and the second circular member are not independently moveable.

10. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the coupling member is a circular hinge pin.

11. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 10 wherein the first and second apertures are circular apertures to receive the circular hinge pin.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An assembly comprising:

a load bearing structure having a first circular member rotatable about a horizontally oriented first axis, the first circular member having a first aperture;

a suspended structure comprising two plates parallel to each other between which the load bearing structure is placed, each of the two plates of the suspended structure having a second circular member rotatable about a common horizontally oriented second axis, and each of the second circular members having a second aperture;

a coupling member received in said first and second apertures to couple the suspended structure to the load bearing structure with the first axis adjacent to the second axis, the coupling member being oriented along a third axis parallel and adjacent to the first axis and the second axis, wherein the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis and the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis; and

rotation prevention means provided between the coupling member and each of the first and second circular members, wherein said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween between the coupling member and the first and second circular members.

20. (Currently Amended) Articulated junction device comprising:

a suspended structure having two plates parallel with one another;

a load bearing structure coupled to the suspended structure and positioned between the two plates;

a hinge pin having a hinge pin axis;

a plurality of first parts ~~adapted to be~~ installed in the suspended structure and rotatable about a first axis; and

a second part ~~adapted to be~~ installed in the load bearing structure and rotatable about a second axis, the hinge pin passing through the first parts and the second part, the first axis and the second axis being parallel and offset from each other and the hinge pin axis, wherein the first and second parts have one rotatable degree of freedom that is fixed along the hinge pin axis during rotation, wherein the plurality of first parts in the plates of the suspended structure cooperate with the plates in the suspended structure through spherical surfaces to define a ball joint connection therebetween.

21. (Currently Amended) Articulated junction device comprising:

a suspended structure having two plates parallel with one another;

a load bearing structure coupled to the suspended structure and positioned between the two plates;

a hinge pin having a hinge pin axis;

a plurality of first parts ~~adapted to be~~ installed in the suspended structure and rotatable about a first axis;

a second part ~~adapted to be~~ installed in the load bearing structure and rotatable about a second axis, the hinge pin passing through the first parts and the second part, the first axis and

the second axis being parallel and offset from each other and the hinge pin axis, wherein the first and second parts have one rotatable degree of freedom that is fixed along the hinge pin axis, wherein the plurality of first parts in the plates of the suspended structure cooperate with the plates in the suspended structure through spherical surfaces to define a ball joint connection therebetween; and

intermediate parts forming ball joint cages fixed in each of the two plates of the suspended structure, the spherical surfaces being formed between the intermediate parts forming the ball joint cages and the plurality of first parts in the plates of the suspended structure.

22. (Currently Amended) An assembly comprising:

a load bearing structure having a first circular member rotatable about a first axis along a first horizontal axis, the first circular member having a first aperture;

a suspended structure having a second circular member rotatable about a second axis along a second horizontal axis, the second circular member having a second aperture, the suspended structure including two plates parallel to each other and configured to receive the load bearing structure therebetween, wherein each of the two plates of the suspended structure cooperate with the load bearing structure through spherical surfaces together defining a ball joint connection therebetween; and

a coupling member received in said first and second apertures to couple the suspended structure to the load bearing structure with the first axis adjacent to the second axis, the coupling member being oriented along a third axis parallel and adjacent to the first axis and the second axis, wherein the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis via a rotation prevention means and the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis.

23. (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising:

a load bearing structure having a first circular member rotatable about a horizontally oriented first axis, the first circular member having a first aperture;

a suspended structure having a second circular member rotatable about a horizontally oriented second axis, the second circular member having a second aperture;

a coupling member received in said first and second apertures to couple the suspended structure to the load bearing structure with the first axis adjacent to the second axis, the coupling member being oriented along a third axis parallel and adjacent to the first axis and the second axis, wherein the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis and the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis, the first and second circular members including a spherical outer surface to define a ball joint connection with corresponding interface surfaces of the load bearing and suspended structures; and

rotation prevention means provided between the coupling member and each of the first and second circular members, said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween.

24. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 10 wherein the rotation prevention means include splines provided between the circular hinge pin and the first and second apertures.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein first spherical surfaces are formed between the load bearing structure and the first circular member, said first spherical surfaces defining a first ball joint connection between the load bearing structure and the complying member, and second spherical surfaces are formed between the second circular members and the two plates of the suspended structure, said second spherical surfaces defining a second ball joint connection between the suspended structure and the complying member.

27. (New) An assembly comprising:

a load bearing structure having a first circular member rotatable about a horizontally oriented first axis, the first circular member having a first aperture;

a suspended structure comprising two plates parallel to each other between which the load bearing structure is placed, each of the two plates of the suspended structure having a second circular member rotatable about a common horizontally oriented second axis, and each of the second circular members having a second aperture;

a coupling member received in said first and second apertures to couple the suspended structure to the load bearing structure with the first axis adjacent to the second axis, the coupling member being oriented along a third axis parallel and adjacent to the first axis and the second axis, wherein the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis and the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis;

rotation prevention means provided between the coupling member and each of the first and second circular members, said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween; and

intermediate parts forming ball joint cages fixed in each of the two plates of the suspended structure, second spherical surfaces being formed between the ball joint cages and the second circular members.

28. (New) An assembly comprising:

a load bearing structure having a first circular member rotatable about a horizontally oriented first axis, the first circular member having a first aperture;

a suspended structure comprising two plates parallel to each other between which the load bearing structure is placed, each of the two plates of the suspended structure having a second circular member rotatable about a common horizontally oriented second axis, and each of the second circular members having a second aperture;

a coupling member received in said first and second apertures to couple the suspended structure to the load bearing structure with the first axis adjacent to the second axis, the coupling member being oriented along a third axis parallel and adjacent to the first axis and the second axis, wherein the first and second circular members are unable to rotate with respect to one another about the third axis and the second axis is offset vertically upwards from the first axis; and

rotation prevention means provided between the coupling member and each of the first and second circular members, said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween, wherein first spherical surfaces are formed between the load bearing structure and the first circular member, said first spherical surfaces defining a first ball joint connection between the load bearing structure and the coupling member, and second spherical surfaces are formed between the second circular members and the two plates of the

suspended structure, said second spherical surfaces defining a second ball joint connection between the suspended structure and the complying member.

29. (New) Articulated junction device of claim 20 further comprising rotation prevention means provided between the hinge pin and each of the first and second parts, said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween.

30. (New) Articulated junction device of claim 21 further comprising rotation prevention means provided between the hinge pin and each of the first and second parts, said rotation prevention means being configured to prevent any relative rotation therebetween.